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Application No. 09/834,003

Filed: April 12, 2001

TC Art Unit: 3693

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AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 32, line 23 to page 33, line 8 with the following.

Yet another software component within the software components 59 shown in Fig. 5 is a workshops interface component 66, that provides automated tools to educate users on all related topics ~~such as~~. The topics covered through the workshops interface component 66 include, for example, the fundamentals of the currency markets, and provide background knowledge to users based on their personalized decision-making requirements. These on-line workshops are personalized via feeds from a database 72 with user specific data compiled by the software component 26 shown in Fig. 2, as well as transaction and position history compiled by the reporting and compliance component 36 shown in Fig. 2. The on-line workshops may further be customized based on uploaded external market data including exchange rates, instrument pricing algorithms, and economic forecasts, for example.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 33, line 9, to page 34, line 10 with the following.

In Fig. 8, a process flow of an illustrative embodiment of the workshops software component 66 in Fig. 5 is depicted. Upon selecting the workshops component 66, the user may select ~~and a~~ specific online workshop in step 98, and then select personalized data in step 100 that can be input or uploaded. The ~~personalize~~ personalized data is used by the disclosed system to customize the

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course content and delivery to the user's specific profile. Once the online workshop is completed in step 102, and an online test passed at step 104, the disclosed system records the fact that related compliance requirements have been met in a database at step 106. By passing a particular online test provided by the disclosed system, specific related compliance requirements may thus be met, thereby enabling a user to perform certain actions within the disclosed system which would otherwise be prevented until the user has demonstrated a base level understanding of the related concepts. In one embodiment, service providers 14 may disable certain compliance features after electronically signing a provided disclaimer within the compliance control software, depending on the banking regulations within the country of operation. Such compliance monitoring may be provided within control software that ensures compliance requirements have been met by each specific user prior to permitting that user to perform a specific related action, irrespective of authorities otherwise applied. In other words, even if a user has authority to perform an action from his or her company, the service provider can block access to that activity if any service provider established compliance standards have not been met by that user.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 34, line 11, to page 35, line 14 with the following.

The workshop provided by the process shown in Fig. 8 may, for example, involve sequential problem solving with increasing complexity of decision making illustrative of decisions associated

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with major milestones in the international growth patterns typical of the target market to which the user belongs. To personalize workshops, the returning user 20 in Fig. 2 enters or uploads decision specific data. In the example of a user that has ~~indicted~~indicated a Japanese yen export, the user provided, decision specific data might include the following: "export" as the transaction or event under evaluation, Japanese yen as the foreign currency, US Dollars as the base currency, and \$100,000 as the transaction value, with credit extension in the terms of trade of 90 days open account, with start date of today's calendar date and close date calculated in 90 days using an international holidays calendar. The disclosed system may then integrate tiered current market rates and use program code executing on the Web site to teach problem solutions through the online course. The personalization and use of Web site technology within the disclosed online workshops creates compliance features supporting "know your customer" requirements within the banking industry. In this way, the disclosed system uses technology to teach. By including interactive tests in step 90 of Fig. 8, the disclosed system ensures that tests must be passed for a user to be authorized by the disclosed system to access features such as those related to transaction entry, booking and policy development. Finally, the data from any workshop can be saved by the system for future reference with the option to refresh data. The system maintains an audit log of workshop tests scores among other compliance requirements related to each user.

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Please replace the paragraph on page 40, lines 4-17 with the following.

The returning user 20 may then further transverse the disclosed Web site, for example selecting pricing and budgets component 32 as shown in Fig. 2. The pricing and budgets component 32 provides decision support models that create a powerful progressive process for analyzing the pricing and budget decisions characteristic of the market segment for which the disclosed system is designed. Use of the software component 32 is governed by controls and limits established in through the software component 122 of the policy configuration component 30, as shown in Fig. 2. Fig. 10 further describes the process involved in creating foreign currency price lists and budgets ~~during~~ through operation of software component 32 as shown in Fig. 2.

Please replace the paragraph on page 42, lines 9-30 with the following.

For example, the user inputs or uploads problem specific variable values that represent situation specific data through software component 150 of Fig. 11, through a formatted sequence of input fields. Examples of such inputs, provided to the software component 150 in connection with the above described pricing scenario might be answers to questions provided by the disclosed system such as: "select base currency of exporter", "select base

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currency of importer", "enter product name", "enter unit price in exporter's base currency", "enter percentage margin on product", "enter budget rate", "select the calendar (dates) for duration of exposure", and "select the period for comparison". Following the input of data through the software component 150, a software component 152 may operate to obtain specific market data including current spot, forward rates, forecasts for designated periods, or historical rates for designated periods by uploading from an external source, or by inputting of selection from the user. Then, a software component 154 operates such that the obtained market data may be used to calculate the pricing on various instruments that might be employed by the user as hedges under various economic scenarios.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 56, line 28 to page 57, line 25 with the following.

The processing of the system in connection with operation of the software component 248 in Fig. 16 is driven by the user's selection from questions 310 shown in Fig. 18, which are associated with corresponding ones of a plurality of models 311, 312 and 313. Questions provided by the software component 248 for selection by the user may, for example, fall into three categories. These categories of questions are illustrative of the technical aspects of the decision making requirements of target

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market in this regard. In the first category are questions for selecting the most effective instrument under specified criteria, such as maximizing cash flow and/or exchange rate forecasts. Illustrative questions within this category include (i) "Which class of instrument should I use to hedge an exposure?"; (ii) ~~"hat~~ "What is the most cost effective instrument to hedge a measured exposure on a cash flow basis given my exchange rate forecast?"; (iii) "Should I hedge this exposure set using a single delivery date or variable delivery date on the forward?"; (iv) "Should I hedge this exposure set using an instrument (i.e., forward or option contracts) or the money markets (i.e., loans or deposits)?" The basis of support provided by the system comes from technical analysis requiring expertise not generally characteristic of the target market and the use of current market rates from which transactions can be effected and the timesaving and accuracy associated with use that can provide for delegation of activities.